

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 29, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Susie Day
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray, Jr.
Dane Mahern
William Oliver
Earl Salisbury

Absent Members

PROPOSAL NO. 106, 2007 - appoints Debbie Grew to the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee, as a representative of the Eagle Creek area
"Postponed" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 155, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$23,360 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to fund after school activities related to drug prevention at numerous school sites (\$13,940 grant from Drug Free Marion County); to expand tennis programs at four IPS schools (\$1,500 grant from the Central Indiana Tennis Association); and to fund salaries for three seasonal staff to assist in administering the summer lunch program at various sites (\$7,902 grant from the Hoover Family Foundation)
"Do Pass as Amended" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 156, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$40,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing State Grants Fund) to pay for resurfacing tennis courts at Garfield park using waste tire asphalt (\$30,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management); and to plant trees at Talbot and 29th, John Ed, and Ross Claypool parks (\$10,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources) in association with the Alcoa Foundation and the Rupert's Kids Foundation
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 157, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$129,875 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund) Recreational Trails Program grant administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources
"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, March 29, 2007. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Susie Day, Monroe Gray, Jr., William "Duke" Oliver, and Earl Salisbury. Dane Mahern and Ron Gibson arrived shortly thereafter.

PROPOSAL NO. 106, 2007 - appoints Debbie Grew to the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee, as a representative of the Eagle Creek area

Chair Brown stated that Ms. Grew is not able to make the committee meeting and asked to have the proposal postponed.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Cockrum, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 106, 2007 until April 19, 2007. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Mahern arrived at 5:02 p.m.}

PROPOSAL NO. 155, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$23,360 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to fund after school activities related to drug prevention at numerous school sites (\$13,940 grant from Drug Free Marion County); to expand tennis programs at four IPS schools (\$1,500 grant from the Central Indiana Tennis Association); and to fund salaries for three seasonal staff to assist in administering the summer lunch program at various sites (\$7,920 grant from the Hoover Family Foundation)

Wayne Simpson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that the Drug Free grant is reimbursable. He also explained that the grant from the Tennis Association is 25% up front and 75% reimbursable, and the Hoover grant is totally reimbursable.

Councillor Gray moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to "Amend" Proposal No. 155, 2007 as per Exhibit A. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

Jason Gabehart, Grants Manager, DPR, stated that the Hoover Family Foundation grant is giving Indy Parks the capability to expand the summer food service program throughout the summer. He said that the three seasonal staff members will be in charge of monitoring sites in Marion County. Mr. Gabehart stated that last year there were 90 participating sites that served over 115,000 lunches. He stated that a goal has been set within the grant proposal to expand to 98 sites and serve 127,000 lunches for this year. Mr. Gabehart stated that the Drug Free grant provides prevention programming dollars for the following sites:

- Charity Dye School 27
- Christian Parks School 82
- Daniel Webster School 46

- Hazel Hart Hendricks School 37
- William Penn School 49
- James Garfield School 31
- Willard J. Gambold Middle School
- Northview and Westlane Middle Schools

Mr. Gabehart stated that many sites will benefit from the programming, and it will be a collaboration between Indy Parks staff and community partners. He said that the Central Indiana Tennis Association grant will help expand tennis programming for the diverse population. He said that the following schools will benefit from the after school program: Charity Dye School 27, Daniel Webster School 46, William Penn School 49, and James Garfield School 31.

Councillor Gray asked where William Penn School 49 is located. Mr. Gabehart stated that it is located on the south side next to Rhodius Park.

Chair Brown asked Director Joseph Wynns to expand on the summer lunch program. He said that last year there were some questions with regard to the lunch program. Mr. Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that DPR follows the guidelines set by the schools, but this program is for the children and DPR is not going to turn anyone away that is hungry. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR has not been criticized by the State and has not received any reimbursables from the State. He said that the State checks DPR's books, and for every dollar that is spent, the State always sends it back. Ellery Manual, Neighborhood Parks Manager, stated that the State has a rigorous tracking system, and the funds are being used for the three seasonal staff members to help expand the summer food service program and keep track of the paperwork.

Councillor Gray moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 155, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 156, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$40,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing State Grants Fund) to pay for resurfacing tennis courts at Garfield park using waste tire asphalt (\$30,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management); and to plant trees at Talbot and 29th, John Ed, and Ross Claypool parks (\$10,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources) in association with the Alcoa Foundation and the Rupert's Kids Foundation

Mr. Simpson stated that half of the \$30,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is received up front and the other half is reimbursable. He said that the \$10,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is fully reimbursable. Mr. Gabehart stated that the IDEM grant will help with resurfacing the eight tennis courts at Garfield Park, which are in need of

repairs. He also said that with the help of IDNR grant and the Alcoa Foundation, DPR is partnering with Rupert's Kids Foundation to have agriculture education with the children and will also plant 81 total trees at the three parks listed in the proposal. Mr. Gabehart said that the children will be responsible for maintaining the trees in the future.

Councillor Mahern thanked DPR for their hard work in his district. He said that he is excited to hear about the tree planting. He said that there have been studies done regarding what tree planting can do for neighborhoods, like reducing crime and contributing toward better air quality.

Councillor Gray asked when Riverside Park and Juan Solomon Park tennis courts will be resurfaced. Mr. Wynns stated that Riverside tennis courts are in pretty good shape. He said that about 7 years ago, those courts were resurfaced, but they may need to be resealed and color coded. He said that Juan Solomon is next on the list to be resurfaced. Councillor Gray also asked what the progress with Tarkington Park dome is. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR is putting together a grant proposal and is looking forward to having an environment where inner city kids can play tennis year round.

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Gray, to send Proposal No. 156, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 157, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$129,875 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund) Recreational Trails Program grant administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Simpson stated that this proposal is a totally reimbursable grant. Mr. Gabehart stated that the Recreational Trails Program is a program through the Federal Highway administration and is funded federally. He stated that DPR is going to rehabilitate the trail system at Southeastway Park to widen it to eight feet. He said that not only is DPR going to widen the trails, but they are going to expand the trails to develop over 12,000 feet of trails. He said it does not just include the asphalt work; it is also bike racks, water fountains and other trail-related facilities.

Councillor Mahern asked how big the trails are at this moment. Mr. Wynns stated that the trails are approximately four feet and DPR is adding four more feet to the trails.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Gray, to send Proposal No. 157, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

New Business

Mr. Wynns stated that Stephanie Seawell previously served as DPR's grant coordinator. She left the department to work at the State, and DPR struggled with trying to keep the momentum going. He said that with bringing in Jason Gabehart; they are almost back on track. He said that with a lot of grants, DPR does not often come and ask for re-appropriations, and that shows that DPR is out in the community trying to get things done without relying on the tax base. He thanked Keith Cheney, who heads up the partnership office, Linda Murray, who goes out and tracks down partnerships, and Jason Gabehart, who is out getting grants.

Chair Brown stated that he agrees with Mr. Wynns and behind every good director is a great staff.

Councillor Cockrum stated that he and Councillor Mahern participated in a ground-breaking ceremony for the Storm Water project with Department of Public Works (DPW) in the Stout Field Park area. About a couple of years ago, there were some arson problems in that area where some City equipment was being stored, and he was wondering if that situation has been taken care of. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR has moved all of the equipment out of that area.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at 5:22 p.m.}

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/law